

c.) Remarks:

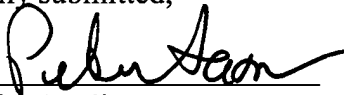
The pending claims are 13, 17 and 18, with Claim 13 being independent. Claims 17 and 18 depend on Claim 13. Claims 12 and 14-16 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the matter therein.

Support for new Claim 17 can be found, inter alia, on page 14, lines 13-19, and page 25, lines 6, 7, 23 and 24 of the specification. Support for new Claim 18 can be found, inter alia, on page 19, lines 9-17, page 26, lines 1-10 and Figs. 2, 6A and 7A of the specification.

Claim 13, the remaining independent claim, has been allowed. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants

Registration No. 24947

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200